



*"Finally going back!"*

### **Do you Have a Student your age or older?**

Some teachers like the fact that there is someone in their classes that are closer to their own age for a variety of reasons. They might make references to something that someone in a closer generation would appreciate more than the younger students. Or maybe it's that they find it easier to communicate with these students.

On the other hand though there are teachers that don't necessarily care for non-traditional students. Some see there conflicting lifestyles to be a bother rather than understand. For instance there are many things that can impact the way the student performs and possibly miss classes or assignments or just needs extra time to complete. While I agree entirely that there should be no different treatment (meaning because you're a non-traditional student doesn't grant you any sort of special privileges) if there is something out of their control and they communicate it well to their teacher. Most often the teacher is understanding.

## **Non-Traditional Students!**

### **About Them**

In today's society the number of non-traditional style students is increasing significantly. On average 11 percent of the students sitting with you in orientation are what we call non-traditional students.

### **What does it mean to be Non-traditional?**

Being a traditional college student means that you went the route of graduating high school being lucky enough to receive grants and scholarships or took out a large student loan and moved right along to college. Non-traditional students are ones that did not follow that route for one reason or another. Regardless of their reasoning they are either starting now at an older age, continuing to get their degree for more than 6 years or more, or going to school online. In order to accommodate their lives. Most non-traditional students have a more demanding personal life than your average student so fitting their schedules and making them work is, hard work but a key factor in their success.





## Does it affect their studies?

Non-traditional students can have different patterns of study, as well as go completely unnoticed. There are many non-traditional students that blend in very well and might not even get noticed as non-traditional. These students will most likely not show any significant sign in class work. As in they will complete their assignments on time and attend class regularly. The grades of these students on average are better than the ones with active lives outside of academics.

The ones with active lives meaning family, jobs, and other obligations are the ones that may have more of a difficulty accomplishing these goals regularly. These student however are more often better at communicating there situations with their professor (you) then the other students.

### What Kind of Teacher are you?

"Understanding or always by the book?"

Neither is right or wrong, but maybe now you have a little bit better understanding of where they come from?

### Will You Help Them?

Okay maybe not just them but it is always helpful to the students that may miss class from time to time to post the notes or power points into an online site so that they have access to study 24/7.

It is also very helpful to be attentive to your email. Sometimes things happen at the last Minuit and the student may need to reach you in a hurry.

### Learn Something New!

**As always Feel Free To Talk To Your Students! You may have more in common than you think!**



*Managing school and life*

"Last semester I missed 6 days of classes total and passed but didn't do as well as I would of liked to on my finals because my son had the chicken pocks and decided to share with his little sister the following week." Anonymous –mother of Three

"I wish that I could find people in the same class that would be able to study later at night I have to take care of my daughter. It's hard being a single father" Anonymous-single father

